

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:JBDEXTER:MAC

APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL

H:RBURNS

S/S - MR. BARNES

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R 292008Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 252291

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TH, BM

SUBJECT: SHAN INSURGENTS, KIDNAPPED RUSSIANS AND CONGRESS-
MAN WOLFF

REF: STATE 250840

1. CONGRESSMAN WOLFF TELEPHONED DEPARTMENT (EA/TB DIRECTOR) DEC 28 WITH REFERENCE TO SHAN INSURGENT PROPOSAL THAT HE SERVE AS MEDIATOR FOR RELEASE OF CAPTURED RUSSIANS (SEE ANDERSON ARTICLE TRANSMITTED REFTEL). SAID PROPOSAL HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO HIM LAST WEEK THROUGH COWELL, WHO ASSERTED RUSSIANS WOULD BE KILLED IF SATISFACTORY TERMS FOR RELEASE COULD NOT BE ARRANGED. WOLFF SAID HE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN PURSUING EARLIER SHAN NARCOTICS PROPOSAL AND HAD NO DESIRE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS NEW ISSUE UNLESS ADVISED THAT HE COULD BE USEFUL.

2. EA/TB DIRECTOR GAVE BRIEF BACKGROUND ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR RELEASE OF RUSSIANS AS KNOWN TO US, EMPHASIZING THAT MATTER IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE THAI WHO HAVE INFORMED US THAT THEY WANT TO TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY. COMMENTED CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THAI, WHOSE COOPERATION ESSENTIAL, WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY RESENT ANY EFFORTS BY OUTSIDERS TO BECOME INVOLVED. COMMENTED THAT, FOR THIS AND OTHER REASONS, INTERVENTION BY WOLFF WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE FEASIBLE BUT SAID

WE WOULD SEEK EMBASSY'S ADVICE.

3. SUGGEST EMBASSY, AT ITS DISCRETION, BRING ANDERSON ARTICLE AND WOLFF INQUIRY TO KRIANGSAK'S ATTENTION AND SOLICIT HIS REACTION. YOU MAY NOTE THAT WE REGARD THIS AS A WILD SCHEME BUT FEEL WE SHOULD TALK WITH RTG ABOUT IT IN ORDER TO BE RESPONSIVE TO WOLFF AND HEAD OFF ADVERSE PUBLICITY OR ILL-ADVISED ACTION BY WOLFF-WHOSE ATTITUDE APPEARS TO BE REASONABLE. REQUEST ALSO EMBASSY'S COMMENTS AND ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE RELEVANT TO ANDERSON ARTICLE. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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